



4655 BIDDLE AVENUE, WYANDOTTE, MICHIGAN 48192 • (313) 265-9200

August 7, 1981

Mr. Robert J. Courchaine - Executive Secretary  
Water Resources Commission  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 30028  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
District V  
230 South Dearborn  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Re: NPDES Permit Parameter Incident  
Pennwalt Corporation  
Wyandotte, Michigan 48192  
Permit No. MI 0002381

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



Gentlemen:

The following is to notify you of an incident which occurred August 5, 1981 in outfall 006.

Outfall Characteristic - Un-ionized Ammonia  
Permit Parameter - 0.20 mg/l.  
Indicated Concentration - 0.24 mg/l.

We believe this incident is related to a release of about 100 gallons of crude n-propylamine which occurred during the startup of our amines unit after an extended maintenance shutdown. The piping from the bottom of an unused column was disconnected inside of the process building and a valve leading to the upper part of the column was inadvertently overlooked in the open position. During the unusual activity during the startup, the valve remained undetected until about 100 gallons had spilled to the floor and to floor drains leading to this outfall. To prevent recurrence the line leading to the column has been blocked by a blind between flanges before the column. Written operating procedures stress the necessity of following each pipe line before it is placed in service to determine that the source and destination of the material to be transferred is correct. The operators have been reminded that this procedure is strictly followed.

Yours very truly,

PENNWALT CORPORATION

*John J. Lewis*

John J. Lewis, Supervisor  
Environmental Affairs  
Wyandotte Plant

RECEIVED

AUG 18 1981

MOUILLEE S.G.A.